

Call to Worship: Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into his presence with singing. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good.

Call to Confession: Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: The Lord is merciful and gracious.. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY MAY 23RD, WE WILL HAVE
A FAMILY NITE COVERED DNA DINNER.
8:30 PM

THE CHURGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 16, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 50
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Our Father, we know that you would not love us for long, except that your love is unchanging. We trust that you will look upon us with a sense of humor, for even when we are trying to confess our sin, we put into words the petty while leaving the gross unspoken. Help us to overcome our clowning and get down to that which is real. Take from us the burden of that which does not matter. Free us from the bewildering array of problems of our own making. Help us to wake up to the fact that in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven and if we but take up his way of love we are free. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---Luke 12:16-34

*The Gloria Patri

Antiphon (Trinity)

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Reception of New Member (Christ)

The Rite of Confirmation: The Charge--The Vows--

Confession of Faith--Prayer of Consecration--

The Confirmation--Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Hymn of Meditation 254

The Sermon---"Take Your Pick"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response 205

401
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the following young ladies and young men as members by the Rite of Confirmation.

Trinity: Neve Jane Reich, Gary L. Leyder, Lloyd Alan Link.

Christ: Kellie Margaret Ebersole, Wilmar Gary Liddick, Nancy Lee Shatto, Shirley Kay Shatto, Randy Lee Sloan, Sandy Lee Sloan, Dennis Frank Smith, Carol Elaine Steele. The Pastor would like to express his thanks to each of them for their faithfulness, and also to the parents for their cooperation.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Consistory today at 2:00 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome also Dennis Fisher as a member today. Since Dennis is a member of the Navy, perhaps we should say welcome aboard Dennis and may God's richest blessings go with you.

Congregational Meeting following the service this morning.

4:30 - Communion - May 23

Take Your Pick

Text: Mark 12:17 "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and to God what belongs to God."

Jesus (Silver Dollar and Quarter)

Story from N.T. Jesus and Pharisees. 1st. buttered him up with righteous, truth

1. tried to trick with taxes to Caesar. If pay then he is saying against God.
if not pay then treason.

2. He asks for coin, whose picture? text

Young today made choice.

All make choices thruout life.

Some right, many wrong, so must set guidelines

Christian life involves: choices, commitment and change.

Choices endless; in our businesses, in school, eating, clothing, morals and et al

To many people spiritual choice done haphazardly.

Each Sunday afternoon kids met and tried to learn church membership.

How much gained unknown, only time will tell.

Too often people join and have campaign of hit and miss attendance.

Looking back for communions interesting fact.

Class of 67 8 boys and girls.

of last 4 communions net result of 5 perfect record.

1 g. and 1 b. communing 3 times and 1 boy skipping all 4.

Haven't seen boy in church that I know of.

Hope this class has as good a record after 4 yrs.

Jesus said, where treasure is there is heart.

If we think more of good times then absent from church.

Think more of self indulgence then, "I can't get up Sunday after Saturday."

If we love God and want to serve then we are here.

We can witness evidence of love by absence or attendance.

Hope and pray these young have enviable record, not for record but because of love of God.

Some church members and sour faces and gloomy looks. (story of boy and mule.)

Christianity a joy, live life fullest, and enjoy to nth degree

Jesus meant this in Seek 1st kingdom and all these other things will be given as well.

(story of commitment about Dr. Pierce Harris).

This should be out life also. A life of no fear of end result.

But if lived adversely like man in story (facetious story of man)

Greek word translated as give back is interesting one, APIDOTE is root of verb

APODIDOMI means "to give in answer to a claim or expectation."

In literal sense it means, (you/give back to Caesar and to God. ^{2nd Pts} ^{1st Pts})

When choose Christ we are giving back in answer to his claim and our expectation.

When he tells take up cross can have eternal life.

We then take claim and expecting salvation thru it and our answer is our lives.

Very apropos.

(Illustration of Army man in Alexanders Army)

What each must do when make choice of Christ, must change.

Not sour faces, but change priorities in life.

From personal pleasures to think of others, from monetary interests to concern for hungry and needy and those who can use love and concern.

(Illustration of John Newton)

Jack Collins and song on radio not new at all.

Christ comes in and changes in wonderful ways.

Too fundamental for some people (Illustration of man from fund. background.

Prayer for these young people and all here that they get religion here

May Christ move all of our hearts this day to change us for the better

May we all choose to follow him.

Prayer.

Take Your Pick

Text: Mark 12:17 "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and to God what belongs to God.."

If I hold up this coin (Silver Dollar), I wonder how many of you can identify it? Now if I show you this coin (Quarter), how many can name it? If I were to give you the opportunity to choose which you wanted I am sure that we would all pick the Silver Dollar. We know this is especially true of little children, since in their minds they seem to equate the largest coin (even if they do not understand that sometimes the larger coin is of less value), as the one to choose. But in this instance we all know that the Silver Dollar is worth more than the Quarter. So we choose the coin of greater value.

In the New Testament we read a story similar to this. Some of the Pharisees came to Jesus to trap him in what he said. This was toward the latter days of his ministry and they were seeking a way in which they could legally arrest him and get him out of the way. So they buttered him up with nice phrases, telling him that they knew he was a righteous man and how he spoke the truth, but was it right to pay taxes to Caesar. They knew that if he said to pay taxes to Caesar was right, then he was going against his own teaching about serving only God. But they also knew that if he said it was wrong to pay taxes to Caesar, then he would be guilty of treason and this is what they probably were hoping he would say.

But surprisingly, he asked for a coin. And holding it up asked them whose face appeared on it. They replied Caesar of course, anybody knew that. So then he tells them, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and to God what belongs to God." In other words he gave them a choice.

These young today have made a choice. All of us here have made this choice at one time or another in our lives. But as we travel through life we learn that we have many choices to make. Many times we make

choices that are really proper and what we should do. But how many other times do we make choices that are wrong for us and wrong all along the line? And so we find that we must set up some guidelines in our lives. We must learn to measure our lives and check them from time to time to see where they are lacking and where we can improve our lives.

The Christian life then involves, choice, commitment and change. The choices we face in life are endless. They involve school, friends, clothing morals, and in all areas of life. One of the most important choices we can make is the one involving our spiritual life. To many people this is unfortunately a choice made rather hastily or without thinking. But it should be done with preparation and with the full knowledge of what we are doing. These young people have spent each Sunday afternoon in session since October trying to learn what being a church member is all about. How much I have succeeded in imparting to them, only they can tell. But I do know that we have tried to be realistic about it. One of the realities of church life is that many people join and then immediately begin a campaign of hit and miss attendance.

In marking the appropriate box in the book for those who have communed, I ran across an interesting fact. Of the class confirmed in 1967 consisting of 8 boys and girls, the last four communions have shown a net result of 5 communing all 4 times, 1 girl and 1 boy communing 3 times and 1 boy skipping all 4 communions. Of course I should add that I can't remember seeing this boy in church since I have been here.

Jesus said that where a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also and this is evidenced by how we think of our spiritual life. If we think more of having a good time out of life then we can notice our absence from church. If we think more of our own self indulgence then we encounter the, "I just can't get up on Sunday morning because of Saturday night," bit. If we love our God and want to serve Him, then we can witness it in the attendance of these people in Church on Sunday morning. I hope and pray that these young people may have an enviable record of church attendance, not just

for the record, but because they love God enough to want to worship Him and seek Him in their lives.

But you see too often I think that we who are church attenders make Christianity appear as though it is something to be dreaded. We are something like the little boy who went to church with his mother on Sunday morning and was greeted by the sour gloomy pessimistic faces of the people. He asked his mother why all the people looked so sad and she replied that, "Oh, they got religion son." That afternoon the boy came running from the barn shouting, "Mama, mamma, our old mules done got religion too."

We should make Christianity a joy to be a part of. We should be able to live life to its fullest and enjoy it to the enth degree and still be a Christian. This in essence is what Jesus meant when He stated, "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be given to you as well."

(Example of commitment about Dr. Pierce Harris).

This is what each of our lives should be. A life lived like this is a life that has no fear of the end result. We have been promised life eternal by our Lord and there can be very little doubt of this when we strive to live as close to Him as we can. But if we live adversely then we are like the man written about facieciuously, "A mans life is 20 years of having his mother aske where he is going, 40 years of having his wife ask him the same question, and at the end the mourners wondering too."

The greek word translated as, "give back" in our text, is an interesting one. The word is APODOTE which has its roots in the word APODIDOMI which literally means, "to give in answer to a claim or expectation. And so when we choose Christ and His way of life we are giving back, or giving in answer to a claim or expectation. He tells us to take up our cross and follow him and we can have life eternal, So then we are taking his claim and expecting ~~give~~ salvation through it and our answer is our lives. Very fitting and very apropos I think.

(Example of soldier in Alexanders army). This is what we each must do when we make the choice of Christ. We must change our way of living. This again does not mean that we put on the sour dreary faces of some Christians, but that we change the priorities in our lives. Where once our personal pleasures we should strive to think of others and look beyond our desires and needs. Where monetary interests may have occupied ~~our~~ our thinking we should now be concerned with the hungry of the world and those who can use our love and concern.

(Illustration of John Newton). We have heard this old hymn popularized by Joan Collins on the radio and I am sure many people who heard it for the first time thought it a new idea. But when Christ comes into the heart of a person and they truly accept Him, He changes them in wonderful ways. In many of our churches we do not want to think in terms like this because we do not want to be associated with the thinking that we may be fundamental. We are like the man who came from a fundamental background, who visited a UCC church. The preacher said something that the fellow agreed with and he shouted, "Praise the Lord." To this an usher came down the aisle and tapped him on the shoulder. He said, "We do not do that in this church." The man replied, "But I've got religion," and the usher replied, "Well you didn't get it in here." But my prayer this day is that these young people have gotten religion here, and not only them but many of the adults. And may Christ move many of our hearts here this day to change ourselves and be the followers of His we should be. Let us pray.